

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

T-03 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-12 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 069860

R 160719 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8088

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1662

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, TW, CH

SUBJECT: ROC - SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: MADRID 1251

1. SUMMARY: WHILE SHOCKED OVER THE ABRUPT AND DIS-COURTEOUSLY HANDLED DIPLOMATIC BREAK BY " ANTI- COMMUNIST" SPAIN AND LOSS OF LAST FULL ROC EMBASSY IN EUROPE, ROC HAS DECIDED TO SEEK TO MAINTAIN AS BROAD A RANGE OF " UNOFFICIAL" TIES WITH SPAIN AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPAIN' S ABRUPT BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH ROC AND ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PRC CAME AS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE TO GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC IN TAIWAN. THERE WAS NO NOTIFICATION TO ROC IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION OF SPANISH/ PRC COMMUNIQUE. VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS YANG HSI- KUN AND TCHEN HIONG- FEI TOLD AMBASSADOR EVENING OF MARCH 11 THAT THE ROC WAS OUT-RAGED AT GOS' LACK OF CONSIDERATION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SPECIFIC SPANISH ASSURANCE GIVEN THE ROC SOME MONTHS AGO THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH ROC IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGE IN CHINA POLICY OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY SAID THAT  
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AMBASSADOR HSUEH YU- CHI HAD BEEN UNABLE EVEN TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO FOR SOME WEEKS. ( THERE IS

A TENDENCY IN ROC TO BELIEVE THAT LOPEZ BRAVO WAS PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PEKING, MOTIVATED PARTLY BY PERSONAL PIQUE OVER FAILURE TO CONSUMMATE A PRIVATE \$2 MILLION SHIP SALE TO ROC SOME YEARS AGO). ROC CONSIDERED REFUSING TO RECEIVE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER GABRIEL FERNANDEZ VALDERRAMA ( WHO ARRIVED TARDILY IN TAIPEI MARCH 10, SEVERAL HOURS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREAK) BUT DECIDED THAT VICE MINISTER TCHEN SHOULD RECEIVE HIM IN LINE WITH CHINESE TRADITIONS OF COURTESY TO VISITORS AND TO SEE IF SOME POSSIBILITY EXISTED OF FUTURE NON- DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

3. WHILE FERNANDEZ WAS APPARENTLY NONCOMMITTAL, WE UNDERSTAND BOTH ROC AND GOS ARE INTERESTED IN " UNOFFICIAL" ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. SPANISH CHARGE DE LA GUARDIA, WHO RETURNED MARCH 15 FROM SEVERAL DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS IN HONG KONG WITH FERNANDEZ, HAS TOLD US THAT GOS HAS INFORMED PRC THAT IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ROC , AND PRC HAS INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION. DE LA GUARDIA SAYS GOS ALSO INFORMED PRC THAT SPAIN WILL TRY TO ARRANGE " UNOFFICIAL" CONSULAR SERVICES ( PERHAPS THROUGH THE SPANISH CONSULATE IN HONG KONG) FOR THE 300 SPANISH NATIONALS NOW RESIDING IN TAIWAN. CHARGE' SAYS THAT HE IS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM OF NEW RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, BUT SURMISED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO WORK THROUGH SPANISH FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE. ( ROC HAS A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH INDONESIA.)

4. MOFA ( MIAO) HAS INFORMED US THAT PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR HSUEH' S DEPARTURE FROM MADRID, ROC WILL SEEK TO WORK OUT WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS IT CAN FOR " UNOFFICIAL" RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, BOTH IN MADRID AND TAIPEI, AND IS NOT PARTICULAR ABOUT THE FORM SUCH RELATIONS TAKE.

5. LOCAL PRESS HAS CONDEMNED SPANISH ACTION AS " FOOLISH" AND A " WRONG DECISION", BUT HAS UNIFORMLY SUPPORTED CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH THE SPANISH PEOPLE. SOME WORRY HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN " CHINA TIMES" ABOUT EFFECT OF SPANISH POLICY SHIFT ON FRIENDLY LATIN AMERICAN  
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COUNTRIES TRADITIONALLY INFLUENCED BY SPAIN.

6. INCIDENTALLY, DE LA GUARDIA SAYS THAT OLD SPANISH LEGATION IN PEKING HAS BEEN KEPT UP BY PRC AND IS AVAILABLE, BUT HE BELIEVES NEW QUARTERS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR EMBASSY.

7 . COMMENT: ROC LEADERS HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT SPAIN FOR SOME TIME AND THEIR DESIRE TO SHORE UP POLITICAL

RELATIONS WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SOME COMMERCIAL  
DECISIONS FAVORING SPAIN. ALTHOUGH ROC HAS BEEN  
CONDITIONED TO THE INEVITABILITY OF SOME FURTHER DIPLO-  
MATIC BREAKS, SPAIN' S ACTION HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY  
DISTURBING. IT DEPRIVES THE ROC OF ITS LAST FULL-  
FLEDGED EMBASSY IN EUROPE, AND IT IS CONSIDERED A LOW  
BLOW BY A COUNTRY WHICH ROC, SINCE WORLD WAR II, HAS  
CONSISTENTLY EXTOLLED AS A STAUNCH ANTI- COMMUNIST  
BULWARK.  
MCCONAUGHY

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